

House Republican Press Release

February 28, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Ferrari: State Legislature Should Not Delay Gresczyk Re-appointment as Agriculture Commissioner



The state legislature should act promptly on Governor M. Jodi Rell's move to re-appoint former New Hartford First Selectman Bruce H. Gresczyk as the state's Commissioner of Agriculture, state Representative Richard F. Ferrari, R-62nd District, said today.

Representative Ferrari, who supported Commissioner Gresczyk's re-appointment in testimony earlier this week before the General Assembly's Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, said that if Democrat Lt. Gov. Kevin Sullivan wanted the General Assembly to delay action on the confirmation vote, the time to make his objections known was at Tuesday's hearing. Sullivan urged legislative leaders Thursday to delay action on Commissioner Gresczyk's nomination until an investigation of his agency based on an anonymous 'whistle-blower' complaint is completed.

The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee voted unanimously after the hearing to recommend that the General Assembly approve Commissioner Gresczyk's re-appointment. Several individuals from various agriculture-related industries testified favorably about Commissioner Gresczyk at the hearing. The state House of Representatives was expected to vote on Commissioner Gresczyk's nomination as early as next week.

"As someone who has known Bruce Gresczyk since 1990, I can personally testify to his honesty, integrity and common sense," said Representative Ferrari, whose district includes New Hartford. "If Lt. Gov. Sullivan had any substantive evidence implicating Commissioner Gresczyk in any kind of improper conduct in his capacity as head of the Department of Agriculture, he should have brought it to the attention of the committee at its hearing Tuesday. I see no reason to delay the vote on Commissioner Gresczyk's re-appointment."

"The farmers like him and the fishermen like him," Representative Ferrari said. "Bruce works hard and he's not afraid to get his hands dirty. Sometimes he has to make tough decisions and he's not afraid to make them. He has experience as both a farmer and a businessman. He has been the owner and operator of Gresczyk Farms, a greenhouse, vegetable and beef production business since 1975."

“Bruce Gresczyk’s background and knowledge will continue to help the state’s agricultural community grow and prosper well into the future. He is energetic and imaginative in looking at the challenges that face Connecticut’s farmers today. We need that kind of dedication and caring approach to successfully overcome those challenges. He has been an excellent commissioner and he deserves to be re-appointed,” Representative Ferrari said.